

From: Dan Van Fleet
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/4/02 3:14pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I've been involved in the computer industry from before Microsoft became a widely known company. I remember the 640K capability of DOS, being what seemed like more than we would ever need, I admired and respected Microsoft at that point. My how times have changed.

Today, I find Microsoft's actions to be horrid. I feel much like a young child in Chicago when he finds out that nice man down the street is actually a mob boss. The child asks his mother, "That man, he kills people?", his mother responds yes he does. The child, afraid, still smiles when the man says hi, he takes a bit of candy when offered, so to not upset the boss. Microsoft is that boss, ISV's and users are the children.

Through my daily dealings with Microsoft software, I've felt Microsoft was unfairly using it's power to force it's products on the public. That has now been proven in court, the proposed settlement is not a solution. Microsoft has already ignored a similar solution, and lied about it through demonstrations in court. Don't let them do it again.

Further, please do not let the actions of 9/11 cause you to go easy on Microsoft, that would be a travesty of justice. Microsoft is currently using those events to attain their goals, don't let them do it. It is a pity that Judge Jackson, so horrified by the testimony, spoke out of turn, don't let Microsoft take advantage of his mistake.

Sincerely,
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